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Review Staff: 75/1653
25 July 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: SSC Meeting, 24 July 1975

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The SSC called a meeting to discuss their concern about inordinate and unnecessary delays in making material available for their investigation. Present were Senators Tower, Schweiker, Baker, Gary Hart, Huddleston. Senator Church came later; Senator Goldwater left after 10 minutes. Also present were Mr. Colby, [REDACTED]

Bill Miller, Staff Director, noted the Agency's concern with guarding names and technical methods against disclosure, and observed that sanitization would involve large investments in time and manpower. He proposed full access by the staff to unsanitized files at headquarters with documents sanitized to come to the Committee. He proposed that special sensitive areas be restricted to the Senior Staff, and, in extreme cases, to the Chairman and Vice Chairman. He proposed that interviews and access to documents proceed after the staff had been briefed.

The first discussion centered on charges that the White House had given the Agency instructions which were obstructing the investigation. Nothing was proved; no charge withdrawn.

Mr. Colby noted that the nature of the requests in the attachment to the 26 June letter presented a dilemma. If he granted unlimited access to Agency files, this would be a derogation of his duty to protect certain areas of information, including the names of agents, cooperating American citizens and companies. He said that sanitizing would be a horrendous chore, and that the purpose of initial briefings was to refine the scope of document requests. This led to a charge that since the Rockefeller Commission staff had had access to raw files, the SSC was being treated as second-class citizens. Mr. Colby noted the special nature

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of the Rockefeller Commission charge and the fact that the material was maintained under secrecy agreements agreed to and enforced by the President.

This revived the charges against the White House, and led into a discussion of the SSC's distaste for briefings. The SSC and staff noted specific instances of delayed responses. The SSC made it clear that they were not interested in briefings, but wanted interviews and documents. Mr. Colby noted that there was sensitive material in our files, and it was partly for that reason that he preferred to brief first. He noted that he was prepared to brief on the 26 June letter and proceeded to read a small part of the briefing paper. He stopped and said that the paper could be submitted to the Committee for the record.

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[] said that the concept of a briefing should be an option left open to the Agency when we felt that perspective would be helpful. In certain instances it would be a briefing of the Committee, in other instances a briefing of the staff and in still others, merely the submission of a written briefing paper or no briefing at all. He pointed out that briefings were intended to focus on specific problems arising out of broad document requests. On documents, he said that if we knew where the committee was going, the Agency could help them get there. He also noted that a major problem was sanitization, - how to protect sensitive material without delaying the investigation.

Senator Baker asked what would be sanitized. Mr. Colby cited names of agents, people and companies who had agreed to cooperate on a confidential basis, technical operational details, and compartmented operations.

At this point, Senator Schweiker tabled the SSC's agreement with the Department of Justice and proposed that this procedure serve as model for the SSC's relations with the Agency. After some discussion, Mr. Colby agreed to study the paper, "Proposed Procedures", and to report back to the Committee on 25 July. Mr. Colby also agreed that the Committee could see unsanitized material if the Agency's sanitization were challenged.

During the course of the discussion, [] withdrew his insistence on prior briefings. Senator Hart asked if all parties could agree that the Committee would receive written papers for the record. All nodded.

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Senator Church proposed that the presentation on "two foreign countries" be taken by the Chairman, the Vice Chairman plus one Republican and one Democratic member. After some discussion, it was agreed that Senators Church and Tower would take the information and then report to the Committee. [] asked that the same procedure be followed on electronic surveillance. This was agreed to.

Senator Church said that the Committee would want detailed information on the Agency's relations with corporations, universities, police and church groups. Mr. Colby agreed that names could be made available in the case of police, but asked that the Committee respect the confidentiality of the relations. Senator Church stated the Committee was not interested in details of cover arrangements, but would want to know the scope and procedure of this practice. Mr. Schwarz cited the names of eight specific companies in the attachment to the 26 June 1975 letter. Mr. Colby said he was not familiar with all the details, but he hoped something could be worked out on a case-by-case basis.

The meeting ended at 1615 with Senator Church reminding Mr. Colby that he should reply tomorrow on "Proposed Procedures", and that provision of materials on all pending document requests, especially covert action studies, should proceed immediately.

[]

Walter Elder
Assistant to the Director

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